are carried out annually under the 20-Point Programme throughout the country including along the National Highways. This is done under various schemes of the Central Ministries/Departments and of State Plans.

Inclusion of Castes in SC/ST Lists

3670. SHRI R.B. RAI : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have received representations for various communities belonging to Nepali/ Gorkha for their inclusion in the Scheduled Tribe List;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the West Bengal Government have also recommended some castes for inclusion in the Scheduled Caste list;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the decision taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b) Representations have been received for the inclusion of Tamang Limbu, Kirati Khambu (Rai) and Gurung (Gorkha) communities in the list of STs of West Bengal.

(c) and (d) The Govt. of West Bengal have recommended inclusion of Hela, Balmiki, Bansphore and Chain communities in the list of Scheduled Castes.

(e) These are under consideration alongwith other such claims for revision of SCs and STs lists.

[Translation]

Setting up of Environment Commission

3671. SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to constitute Environment Commission at National and State level to deal with matters relating to environment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Improvement in Rishikesh Under Ganga Action Plan

3672. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether garbage and waste of Tehri is being thrown in Bhagirathi, the main stream of Ganga; and

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard and the steps taken for the improvement of upper areas of Rishikesh under the Ganga Action Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) According to the information received from the Nagar Palika, Tehri and Garhwal Jal Sansthan, garbage of Tehri is disposed in the dumping yard and not thrown in Bhagirathi. The waste water of Tehri is disposed of into septic tanks or soak pits. For permanent disposal of sewage of the new Tehri township a sewage treatment plant is under construction by the UP Government. Under the Ganga Action Plan Phase II, pollution abatement works have been sanctioned in the upper areas of Rishikesh in 8 towns namely; Joshimath, Gopeshwer, Karanprayag, Rudrprayag, Badrinath, Srinagar, Devprayag and Uttarkashi.

[English]

Anti-National and Smuggling Activities Across Indo-Nepal Border

3673. SHRI VIJAY PATEL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Nepal have launched a joint survey to check the anti-national and smuggling activities across the Indo-Nepal border; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) Check Posts all along the Indo-Nepal border are being strengthened and concerned State Governments have been asked to intensify patrolling along the border by specially deputed Task Forces of State Police. Intelligence gathering, in addition, all along the border, has been strengthened and better coordination between the various State and Central agencies has been brought about.

2. Regular meetings between District Officials of Border Districts of India and Nepal are being held for exchange of useful information and sorting out local problems. Recently, His Majesty's Government of Nepal announced formation of a 5 members Team led by a retired Cabinet Secretary for the Joint Indo-Nepal Working Group for discussions on problems relating to Trans-Border Activities like infiltration/ smuggling activities. India has also constituted a Team led